

4-H in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation

There are TWO options to include 4-H in a recreation center:

1. 4-H Club
2. 4-H Special Interest

A 4-H Club can be formed in one of THREE ways at a recreation center.

1. Currently existing afterschool program.
 - a. 4-H staff trains afterschool teachers on 4-H and how to run a 4-H club. 4-H becomes part of the afterschool program.
2. Utilize current clientele.
 - a. Market 4-H to a currently existing clientele at your center (ie: home school groups, teen groups, regular attenders). They are a captive audience and are usually willing to new programming.
3. Start from scratch.
 - a. Hold 4-H informational meetings, publicize through flyers, news papers, etc. This method takes longer, and requires constant attention to be successful.

Steps to forming a 4-H club.

1. Decide which of the three ways listed above will work best at your site.
2. Meet with 4-H staff member(s) to plan initial club meeting and prepare 4-H club meeting calendar.
3. Complete volunteer application for ALL adults working with the youth in the 4-H club.
4. Publicize 4-H club meeting in newspaper and with flyers.
5. 4-H staff conducts first 4-H meeting.
6. Collect enrollment forms on each youth in 4-H club and send originals to 4-H Office.
7. Complete 4-H Club Charter Request Form and submit to 4-H Office.

4-H Club Information

- 4-H members can be 5-18 years old
- Clubs can specify an age range (ex: 5-8, 9-12, teens)
- 4-H clubs must have at least 5 members
- 4-H clubs must meet at least once each month
- 4-H club meetings last between 1.5 and 2 hours

4-H Special Interest Basics

- Short Term
- Topic Specific
- At least SIX hours (can be spread out over weeks / months)
- SAME youth participate in all sessions
- Can lead to forming a 4-H Club
- 4-H staff trains YOU on the 4-H curriculum

Examples of 4-H Special Interest: Electric - Photography - Bicycle - Embryology

4-H Training

- 4-H training sessions are held every month at 4-H Office. Any adult or teen interested in working with 4-H is invited to attend.